AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A modified, unsubstituted or hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product for clinical use, characterized in that the hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product ~~has a degree of branching in the range from 8 to 20 mol% and a degree of substitution MS of up to 0.3, that the unsubstituted starch product has a degree of branching in the range from 11 to 20 mol%~~ has a degree of branching in the range of from 8 to 20 mol %, a degree of substitution MS of up to 0.3, the unsubstituted starch product has a degree of branching in the range of from 11 to 20 mol %, and that said unsubstituted or hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product has an average molecular weight (M_w) in the range of from 10000 to 450000, with the proviso that said unsubstituted or hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product is not derived from an amylopectin fraction.

2. (Original) The starch product as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it is hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted and has a degree of substitution MS in the range from 0.05 to 0.3.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The starch product as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that it has an average molecular weight (M_w) in the range from 10 000 to 40 000.

5. (Original) The starch product as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that it has an average molecular weight (M_w) in the range from 40 000 to 450 000.

6. (Original) The starch product as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it is hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted and in that the C_2/C_6 ratio is in the range from 4 to 20.

7. (Currently amended) The starch product as claimed ~~in claim 5~~ claim 6, characterized in that the C_2/C_6 ratio is in the range from 5 to 9.

8. (Original) The starch product as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it is hydroxyethylated starch.

9. (Original) The starch product as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that its reducing ends are inactivated by oxidation or reduction.

10. (Currently amended) A dialysis solution comprising ~~water, a modified, unsubstituted or hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product which has a degree of branching in the range from 8 to 20 mol% and, in the case of substitution, has a degree of substitution MS of up to 0.3, and conventional additions~~ water and a modified, unsubstituted or hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product, said hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product having a degree of branching in the range of from 8 to 20 mol %, a degree of substitution MS of up to 0.3, said unsubstituted starch product having a degree of branching in the range of from 11 to 20 mol %, said unsubstituted or hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product having an average molecular weight (M_w) in the range of from 10000 to 450000, with the proviso that said unsubstituted or hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product is not derived from an amylopectin fraction.

11. (Currently amended) A plasma expander comprising ~~water, a modified, unsubstituted or hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product which has a degree of branching in the range from 8 to 20 mol% and, in the case of substitution, has a degree of substitution MS of up to 0.3, and conventional additions~~ water and a modified, unsubstituted or hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product, said hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product having a degree of branching in the range of from 8 to 20 mol %, a degree of substitution MS of up to 0.3, said unsubstituted starch product having a degree of branching in the range of from 11 to 20 mol %, said unsubstituted or hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product having an average molecular weight (M_w) in the range of from 10000 to 450000, with the proviso that said unsubstituted or hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product is not derived from an amylopectin fraction.

12. (Currently amended) A method of peritoneal dialysis comprising dialyzing with a dialysis solution comprising a modified, unsubstituted or hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch ~~product which has a degree of branching in the range from 8 to 20 mol% and, in the case of substitution, has a degree of substitution MS of up to 0.3, as colloid osmotic agent in dialysis~~ as colloid osmotic agent in dialysis, said hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product having a degree of branching in the range of from 8 to 20 mol %, a degree of substitution MS of up to 0.3, said unsubstituted starch product having a degree of branching in the range of from 11 to 20 mol %, said unsubstituted or hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product having an average molecular weight (M_w) in the range of from 10000 to 450000, with the proviso that said unsubstituted or hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product is not derived from an amylopectin fraction.

13. (Currently amended) A method for volume replacement comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a plasma expander comprising a modified, unsubstituted or hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product ~~which has a degree of branching in the range from 8 to 20 mol% and, in the case of substitution, has a degree of substitution MS of up to 0.3~~ said hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product having a degree of branching in the range of from 8 to 20 mol %, a degree of substitution MS of up to 0.3, said unsubstituted starch product having a degree of branching in the range of from 11 to 20 mol %, said unsubstituted or hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product having an average molecular weight (M_w) in the range of from 10000 to 450000, with the proviso that said unsubstituted or hydroxyethyl- or hydroxypropyl-substituted starch product is not derived from an amylopectin fraction.